

However, OSC cannot keep up with the influx of claims and respond to them in a timely and responsible manner. The funding increase will provide the additional staff and related expenses necessary to support ongoing investigations of misconduct and whistleblower reprisal. It will promote accountability and better administration of the VA.

I thank Chairman ROGERS for his work to help cleanup the problems at the VA through increased funding of the OSC in section 124 of H.J. Res. 124.

HONORING COMMANDER AUNDREA
E. TAPLIN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Aundrea E. Taplin who is retiring after 21 years of faithful service to our nation in the United States Navy.

Commander Taplin began her dedicated career in public service after graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1993. Already a distinguished Officer, over the course of the next 21 years, Commander Taplin served the Navy in a wide variety of roles, travelling throughout the country and overseas.

Her assignments included Naval Air Station Sigonella; Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 47; Naval Legal Service Office Southwest; Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Submarine Group Nine, USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74); the Office of the Judge Advocate General and the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs.

Throughout her career, Commander Taplin has demonstrated a commitment to self-improvement, re-dedicating herself to her education at various points. In 1999, she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego and in 2009 she earned her LLM in Environmental Law from George Washington University.

Commander Taplin has also earned a variety of awards for her outstanding service to our country. Her personal awards include four Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

I commend Commander Taplin for her commitment to our country and the sacrifices she has made on our behalf. On the occasion of her retirement, I thank her and her family for over two decades' honorable service to our nation and wish her fair winds and following seas as she concludes a distinguished career.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT OF
OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial today in Washington, DC through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and coun-

try, we welcome these heroes to the nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Albert Azar, Army; Clarence Brace, Army; Howard Christopherson, Army; Jacob Egger, Army; Theodore Flaiz, Army; Henry Krebs, Army; Loyal Lee, Army; Richard Lovett, Army; Eddie Morris, Army; Henry Nelsen, Army; Lewellyn Renville, Army; Robert Strick, Army; Henry Tiano, Army; James Rose, Army Air Corps; Richard Smith, Army Air Corps; Frederick Parish, Army Air Force; Ray Burgess, Coast Guard; Helen Hansen, Coast Guard; Richard Shettler, Coast Guard; Marvin Adams, Navy; Robert Bigler, Navy; Harold Candland, Navy; Paul Clayton, Navy; Byron Dougan, Navy; Joseph Fahey, Navy; John Faust, Navy; John Ferguson, Navy; Troy Grimshaw, Navy; Herman Hansen, Navy; Cecil Hector, Navy; Imer Henry, Navy; Richard Higgins, Navy; Marvin Johnson, Navy; Glenn Lewis, Navy; Robert Montgomery, Navy; Bob Moore, Navy; James Stangland, Navy; Gordon Stone, Navy; Neil Swarthout, Navy; Paul Swenson, Navy; Arthur Tooze, Navy; Gilbert Turner, Navy; Harold Wakefield, Navy; George Yates, Navy; Robert Ganson, USMC; Edward Kimball, USMC; Richard Mann, USMC; Harold Reeves, USMC; Albert Riney, USMC; Thomas Teela, USMC.

These 50 heroes join more than 98,000 veterans from across the country who, since 2005, have journeyed from their home states to Washington, DC to reflect at the memorials built in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country. I especially want to recognize and thank Dick Tobiasson for his tireless work as president of Honor Flight of Oregon and trip leaders Erik Tobiasson and Pam Kelsay for their efforts.

HONORING THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the Anacostia Watershed Society, a nonprofit organization based in Maryland and Washington, DC tasked with restoring the Anacostia River for the health and enjoyment of its watershed communities, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Since its founding, it has been cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage of the Anacostia River for the benefit of all who live in its watershed and for visitors.

Founded in 1989 by Robert Boone, the Anacostia Watershed Society overcame early challenges as it sought to raise awareness of the deteriorating health of the river and its watershed after nearly two hundred years of

urban settlement and industrial activity. Mr. Boone worked with local activists and attorneys to take steps to turn the situation around by working to relocate plans to build a new football stadium away from the river, to stop the Navy Yard from dumping toxic waste into the water, and to end the flow of sewage into the river—a project that will be completed in 2022 with the opening of underground tunnels built to capture and treat sewage overflows.

During this time, Mr. Boone and program manager Jim Connolly were also working to raise consciousness in the local community about the river. Mr. Boone and Mr. Connolly hosted trash clean-ups, tree plantings, and numerous public events to get Marylanders and Washingtonians engaged with the river and to promote it as a source of outdoor recreation. The programs and events they developed in the early days of the Anacostia Watershed Society set the stage for the many important activities the organization undertakes today.

Over the next twenty-five years, the Anacostia Watershed Society grew to become a powerful advocate for the river, its watershed, and the communities it benefits. The organization has expanded to include four departments essential to its success: Stewardship, Education, Advocacy, and Recreation. The Anacostia Watershed Society engages local residents of all ages in the cleanup and restoration of the river while involving the community in advocating for policies to reduce and regulate the pollutants entering its waters.

I have been proud to serve as an advocate for the Anacostia and its watershed throughout my time in Congress. My first association with the Anacostia Watershed Society was as a co-sponsor of an Earth Day boat tour of the river, aimed at gaining attention in Congress for the Society's advocacy efforts. Later, I was proud to work in Congress to promote policies authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help restore the Anacostia. Throughout my involvement with the Anacostia Watershed Society, I have met many engaged and energized local activists who are deeply concerned about the future not only of the river but of our region as a sustainable place to raise healthy families.

The Anacostia Watershed Society's vision for the future includes a river that is fishable and swimmable—as per the Clean Water Act—and serves as an urban oasis and destination for those in Maryland, Washington, DC, and visitors from around the country. I congratulate its members on twenty-five years of service to the communities of our region, and I look forward to continue to work with them to advance the Society's mission for many years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR THE EL RIO COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER OF TUCSON,
ARIZONA IN RECOGNITION OF
THE OPENING OF ITS NEW CON-
GRESS HEALTH CENTER

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and celebration of the El Rio Community Health Center of Tucson, Arizona,